



CITY OF BEND

# Minutes

## City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee

October 24, 2024, from 1:00 to 2:30 PM

Chair Burnett conducted and called the **City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee** (COBAAC), October 24, 2024, regular hybrid meeting to order at 1:03 PM, at City Hall in Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street. Please watch the **COBAAC October24, 2024, livestream recording**.

### 1. Roll Call and Welcome: Committee Members.

#### Chamber Attendees (5):

- Chair, Carl Burnett, He/Him.
- Vice Chair, John Heylin, He/Him.
- Amanda Hamer, She/Her.
- Nicholas Radon, He/Him/His. (*Last Meeting*)
- Stephanie Utzman, She/Her.

#### Zoom Attendees (5):

- Aaron Rivers, He/Him.
- Derek Hofbauer, He/Him.
- Liz Diether-Martin, She/Her.
- Liz Woodfin, She/Her.
- Whitney Bennett, She/Her.

#### Absence Excused (1):

Kori Sparks, She/Her.

#### City Staff:

- Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility & Equity Manager / Staff Liaison (*Chambers*)
- Andrés Portela, He/Him/El, Equity & Inclusion Director (*Absence Excused*)
- Barb Campbell, She/Her/Hers, Councilor / COBAAC Council Liaison (*Zoom*)
- Mellissa Kamanya, She, Her, Affordable Housing Coordinator (*Zoom*)
- Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Staff (*Chambers*)

#### Oregon Disability Commission:

- Commissioner Christie Rudder, Oregon Disability Commission (*Chambers*)

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

### 2. Land Acknowledgement: **Timestamp 4:10**

Chair Burnett volunteered to read the City of Bend Land Acknowledgement.

### 3. Minutes Approval: Approve September 26, 2024, Draft Minutes. **Timestamp 4:59**

**Motion:** Vice-Chair Haylin motioned to approve the COBAAC September 26, 2024, Draft Minutes as read, with no corrections. Member Woodfin seconded the motion. The motion to approve the September 26, 2024, draft minutes, unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting, in person (5) and virtually (5).

#### 4. Public Comment: **Timestamp 6:03**

No public comment.

#### 5. **Oregon Disabilities Commission:** Commissioner Christie Rudder, She/Her. **Timestamp 6:38**

Commissioner Rudder will introduce the **Oregon Disabilities Commission**, who we are, what they do and their purpose.

About Commissioner Rudder: She is at her 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of a multiple car accident that caused her disability, making forty years of advocating for herself and learning how to advocate for others.

She noticed a lack of services for transportation, health care, and housing. Then found a huge population that are houseless or that are isolated in their homes because a lack of access to needed services.

Commissioner Rudder raised personal services needed to the Governor Office, they directed her to the Oregon Disabilities Commission where she later spoke during public comment about the lack of services. She was met with immediate response about different services:

- DHS
- Ombudsman Program through OHP, who immediately addressed her concerns. Then she was asked to join the commission in May.
- Commissioner Rudder is on the Central Oregon Healthcare Council Advisory Committee and on the La Pine Community Healthcare Committee.
- Wants to secure and find needed services to meet the needs of all people with disabilities in the southern region of Central Oregon. To try to eliminate that isolation and connect people with disabilities to services. With engagement in community activities and support independence and self-sufficiency.
- We are lack in accessible: transportation, affordable housing, healthcare, better food choices, and access to social and community involvement.

**Slide:** Oregon Disabilities Commission – What we do:

- The Oregon Disabilities Commission (ODC) is a Governor-Appointed Commission. That is administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services. ODC acts as a coordinating link between and among public and private organizations serving individuals with disabilities.  
  
The commission is a composed of 15 members broadly representative of major public and private agencies who are experienced in or have demonstrated particular interest in the needs of individuals with disabilities. A majority of members are individuals with disabilities.

**Slide: Oregon Disabilities Commission – Purpose:**

The ODC is to secure economic, social, legal, and political justice for individuals with disabilities through systems change. To carry out this mission, the ODC:

- Identifies and hears the concerns of individuals with disabilities and uses the information to prioritize public policy issues which should be addressed.
- Publicizes the needs and concerns of individuals with disabilities as they relate to the full achievement of economic, social, legal, and political equity.
- Educates and advises the Department of Human Services, the Governor, the Legislative Assembly and appropriate state agency administrators on how public policy can be improved to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.

**ODC information:**

**Oregon Disabilities Commission**

Aging and People with Disabilities

500 Summer St. NE, E-02

Salem, Oregon, 97301

**Email:** [oregondisabilities.commission@odhs.oregon.gov](mailto:oregondisabilities.commission@odhs.oregon.gov)

**Toll-Free and TTY:** 800-282-8096

**Fax:** 503-373-1133

We accept all relay calls

**Coordinators:** Joeseeph Lowe // 971-239-6666 // [joseph.lowe@odhs.oregon.gov](mailto:joseph.lowe@odhs.oregon.gov)

**6. COBAAC 2024 Strategic Plan Subgroup Updates: Timestamp 15:25**

- a. Improving Transportation and Infrastructure Group. Members: Bennett, Hofbauer, Radon, and Chair Burnett.
  - Licensing Department: Taxi Licensing Letter Draft from, Chair Burnett, work with the legal department to review if in ADA compliance.
  - Adding links on the COBAAC webpage that pertain to different modes of accessible transportation, which include OnDemand rides. Possibly adding these same links to the [ADA and Accessibility Resources For Central Oregon Business Owners | City of Bend](#).
  - Part of the Walk and Roll event goal was to circle back with a survey about the success and impact on the people that attended this event.
  - Spoke about support from Manager Kehoe on how to move forward with our projects.
- b. Creating an Accessibility Community Group. Members: Diether-Martin, Rivers, Woodfin, Vice-Chair Heylin, and Chair Burnett.
  - Due to the group's time capacity, they were not able to meet.
- c. Creating a Culture of Accessibility within the City of Bend. Members: Hamer. Utzman, and Woodfin.
  - Due to the group's time capacity, they were not able to meet.

## 7. COBAAC 2025 Workplan Workshop – Upcoming Forecast: **Timestamp 22:33**

An email Manager Kehoe sent out earlier in the month was to encourage group leaders to invite her to your scheduled meeting(s). We can review the work completed, talk about support(s) needed within the three subgroups or what barriers have come to light during the process.

**Slide:** Forecasting Upcoming COBAAC 2025 Workplan – Subgroup Analyst:

- What initiatives have momentum and energy?
- What barriers to initiatives.
- What are new and exciting 2025 potential projects?
  - Synergy: What opportunities are available to work with other community groups, commissions or other community equity groups?
    - Member Diether-Martin's example: A movie screening of "The Tide Ahead" and partnering with Open Space, COCC (Central Oregon Community College), OSU (Oregon State University), and other accessibility community organizations.

### COBAAC 2025 Workplan Ideas:

- **Chair Burnett:** Snow removal.
- **Member Hofbauer:** Having a COBAAC presence at different events; a table, present our accomplishments at regional/ larger groups that come to Bend (Breaking Barriers, Sprout Film Festival).
- **Counciler Campbell:** Input/ involvement on Accessibility for the Hawthorne Bridge: How it will connect to the east and west side, striping bikeway to separate cyclist and pedestrians and other things under consideration.
- **Vice-Chair Heylin:** Affordable Housing and adding to the City's point scoring system about having more assessable units. Bonus point when built public transit stop, near a main thoroughfare and all types of folks struggling to find housing in Central Oregon.
- **Member Radon:** Being party of the camping code discussion with City Council. Follow up on houselessness and accessibility. There was a large percentage of houseless individuals suffering from some sort of disability. Broad topic, assure outreach and how to address those experiencing houselessness, their concerns and make sure they have access to treatments needed.
- **Member Hamer:** Host a roundtable discussion with developers about the barriers, and what is preventing building/ creating more developments that are more accessible.

## 8. COBAAC Business and Roundtable.

### a. COBAAC Business:

- COBAAC Member Recognition: Nicholas Radon's last meeting. **Timestamp 45:02**  
Expressions were shared by Nicholas Radon's 4-year experience as a COBAAC member, by city staff, and COBAAC members.

- b. COBAAC Leadership Elections: Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair, 1 year term, expires 10/2025:

The Chair vote will be tabled until the November 21, 2024, meeting, where Member Hamer and Woodfin will make a final decision for who will accept the Chair position.

Newly elected Vice-Chair Hofbauer's vote will be tabled until the November 21, 2024, meeting, where a final vote for the 2024-2025 leadership positions will be accepted at the same time.

- c. RoundTable.

- **Member Radon:** Inquired about the Rooftop Restaurant and Bar Letter he wrote. Manager Kehoe stated that it is a slow process and still in conversations with folks about where the best route for the letter.
- **Member Radon:** Reminded the committee about collaborating with the Human Rights and Equity Commission due to shared goal between both groups.

#### 9. Accessibility Manager Update: Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella. **Timestamp 1:08**

- a. COBAAC Recruitment: Currently recruiting two new COBAAC members.
- b. Upcoming: Communications Snow Removal: A member of the Communications department will present the revised Snow Removal Graphics.
- c. American Airlines - \$50 Million Fine: **DOT Issues Landmark \$50 Million Penalty Against American Airlines for Its Treatment of Passengers with Disabilities | US Department of Transportation**
- d. Gratitude: Manager Kehoe expressed her gratitude to be in the company of the COBAAC members and the work they do.

#### 10. Agenda Setting: **Timestamp 1:16:45**

- **Chair Burnett:** Hear about snow removal in November.
- **Member Woodfin:** Consider inviting an instructor on trauma informed care and why its importance. **Member Utzman:** We talked about extending an invitation in October and felt it was premature and need to meet as a subgroup with Manager Kehoe.
- **Chair Burnett:** Reach out to Ryan Oster to present to COBAAC about the Hawthorne Crossing Project.
- **Member Hofbauer:** Have further discussion about the Tower Theater film series and Breaking Barriers, and if the group want to submit an application.

#### 11. Council Liaison Update: Councilor Barb Campbell, She/Her/Hers. **Timestamp 1:21:33**

- Highway 20 is being talked about because multiple activists around the state filed a complaint against ODOT. Part of the complaint was about impassable bike routes, resulting in the need to replace the curb ramps between Highway 20 and Third Street.

- Councilor Campbell was able to Lobby ODOT and the City to change the layout of a couple of places on the south side on 12<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Street intersections.

**12. Due to the holiday season, COBAAC will hold its next meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2024, the third Thursday of the month.**

**13. Adjournment:** With no further COBAAC business, Chair Burnett adjourned the October 24, 2024, City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee hybrid meeting at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larsen

Administrative Supports Specialist, Accessibility and Equity Program



**Language Assistance Services & Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities**

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please contact Accessibility and Equity Program at [accessibility@bendoregon.gov](mailto:accessibility@bendoregon.gov) or 541-693-2141. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

